



# THE CITIZEN

Vol. 33, No. 3

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

February 10, 2004



Stuttgart, Bad Aibling, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

## Living in a winter wonderland

### *Area photographers capture splendor of season*

By Hugh C. McBride

**S**uddenly, it seems like spring. Or at least it did when this edition of The Citizen went to print. (As the saying goes, if you don't like the weather around here, just wait 15 minutes and it'll change.)

Guests and residents in Southern Germany have had their winter wardrobes put to the test as Mother Nature has unveiled a full spectrum of weather wonders since the autumn leaves changed and fell a few short months ago.

Traditionalists enjoyed a white Christmas – and outdoor adventurers have been treated to significant snow on area slopes and trails – but drivers have been kept on the edges of their seats as roads changed from dry to damp to ice-covered (at times in what seemed like matters of minutes).

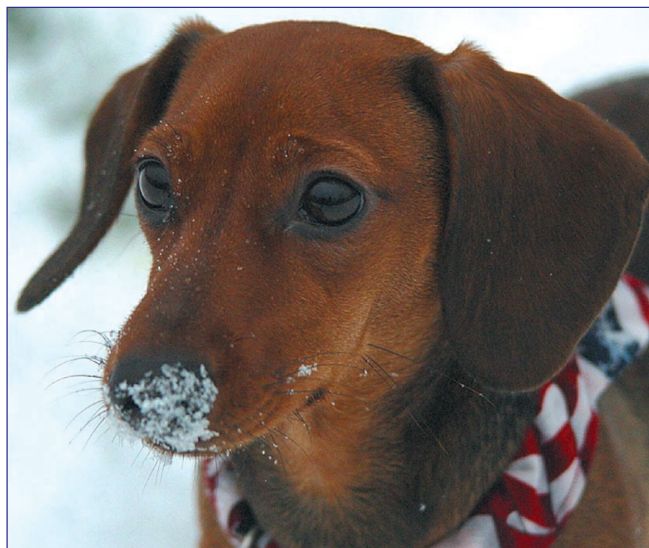
Yet, complaints and consternation aside, as attested to by the contributions of community members that grace this page, one of the true joys of living in Europe is the splendor of the season.

**Short hair aside, even dachshunds seem to enjoy winter in Germany.**



Andrea Winter

**A balloon offers a majestic view of Garmisch-area mountaintops.**



Melanie Casey



Troy Sullivan

**Some workers never get snow days. Here, a Stuttgart-area shepherd tends to his flock.**



Drew Benson

**Garmisch's Lory Papson takes advantage of two of the area's trademark attractions: deep snow and a steep slope.**

## INSIDE THIS EDITION

Page 3

### **SNAP is back on Stuttgart installations**

After a brief hiatus, a re-energized Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program returns to Stuttgart with a new coordinator.



Pages 8-9

### **Stuttgart Piranhas end season with a splash**

The Stuttgart area's premiere youth swim program concludes another successful season with the "Champs" meet in Munich.





## Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions

### Roses to:

**Steve Morton of Community Bank** on Patch Barracks. My husband and I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for Mr. Morton's efficient and compassionate service — which made a difficult time much easier for us. He truly made a difference.



**Mitch, Jinx and Rudy at the Kelley Community Club.** The club may not have the finest furnishings in all of Germany, but I doubt if there is a more welcoming environment or friendly staff at any MWR facility. As the recent Super Bowl party proved, these three gentlemen ensure that spending time in the Kelley Club is always an enjoyable experience.

**The snow-removal personnel** who worked hard the previous few weeks to keep our installation streets and sidewalks clean during what seemed like a never-ending snowstorm in Southern Germany.

### Thorns to:

**The thoughtless people who are using handicap parking spaces** to facilitate their laziness. Shame on you! Furthermore, the office that hands out the permits needs to ensure that the individuals receiving them actually need them, as it appears to me that too many people are abusing this privilege.

**Drivers who can't find parking spots near the Swabian Special Events Center** and, instead, deposit their vehicles into the first open space they find on Vermontstrasse. Apparently, you haven't noticed the very clear markings that reserve these spots for residents of stairwell buildings along the street.

E-mail comments to [citizen@6asg.army.mil](mailto:citizen@6asg.army.mil) or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

# Final choices show veteran's enduring love for Air Force

By Maj. John J. Thomas  
Commentary

**R**eid S. Wyant is dying. His daughter called me the other day looking for help putting together the items so that he could be buried in his Air Force service dress uniform.

He served 30 years as an airman. And it seems he's still one of us.

I got to thinking: What makes a person who has lived life as a civilian since 1980 want to be buried in his uniform?

I like to think maybe "Service Before Self" gets into your blood. After all, retired Senior Master Sgt. Wyant switched his cancer treatment from Eglin Air Force Base not too long ago because the war was forcing them to cut back care, and he wanted the active-duty people to get taken care of first.

"Always thinking of others," says his daughter, Andrae Harris.

Harris is helping care for her father as he edges closer to the end. She helps him plan it all out. Arlington National Cemetery was overruled by his wife, who wants him for eternity closer to family. Details like that.

Andrae says she always knew her dad was a hero. He was awarded the Airman's Medal for saving three swimmers' lives "in front of my very eyes, without a care to his own safety."

He almost lost his own life doing it, she says. And that pales in comparison to his courage facing his cancer.

Sgt. Wyant might say it is the friends you find that make the Air Force something you want to be buried with.

"I've never known anyone that did not like my dad," his daughter says.

A former commander, Col. Roger Andersen, still visits him at home. "They would both reenlist today," if they could, Andrae tells me.

Reid Wyant's life with the Air Force began when the young Air Force had been around for just seven years. "His uncle was a rear admiral and told him to join the Air Force," Andrae says. Seems his uncle was a smart man.

"He caught a bus to Pittsburgh and never looked back," she says.

I think he's looking back now.

Looking back on the people he met as a munitions maintenance specialist and first sergeant. Born and raised in Kitanning, Pa., he served in North Africa in the '50s; Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Korea in the '60s. In 1971 he was in Thailand.

And he was in plenty of stateside places in between. But

*Wyant switched his cancer treatment from Eglin Air Force Base because the war was forcing them to cut back care, and he wanted the active-duty people to get taken care of first.*

no assignment was more important than the move from Denver to Bentwaters, England.

That's where a boy, dirt-poor and often mistreated by his grandfather, a guy who dropped out of school and put his kid brother through college — well, England is where he met his wife, Doreen. To hear Andrae tell it, her mom's whole family fell in love with him.

As much, it seems, as he loved the Air Force.

Upon retirement from his second career, Sgt. Wyant moved from Dallas to near Eglin where he fried fish and chicken for squadron picnics. And where a couple of years ago he was first treated for cancer.

And it was to Eglin that he went recently with his family to get all of his affairs together and prepare a final will.

I have never met Sgt. Wyant. But I have worked with people just like him every day of my 12 years in the Air Force. I have served with loyal members of every service. And I am off to Iraq soon to work again with the State Department and other agencies.

People tell me to keep my head down when I go to Iraq. Instead I think I'll hold my head high, out of respect for people like Sgt. Wyant and all those he represents, like my own dad, and my father-in-law.

When Andrae asked him the other day "why the service dress uniform for the burial?" he said that is what he has always worn for important events, and he wanted his family to recognize him. His sense of humor is still healthy.

Maybe one day, I will ask to be buried in my service dress uniform, like Senior Master Sgt. Reid S. Wyant wants to be, "with full military honors."

In his case, the honor will be ours.

Thomas is assigned to the Air Force Personnel Center Public Affairs Office.

## IN THE MAIL

# Writer reminds morning drivers to obey German road rules when entering Patch

**I**would like to remind drivers of the following "right of way" issue, especially where it applies to entering Patch Barracks in the morning.

Under German law, unless otherwise posted, vehicles approaching from the right have priority over the vehicles coming from the left.

This applies to Patch Barracks most often in the following situation:

Before drivers get to the front gate at Patch Barracks in the morning, there is an MP who waves some vehicles to the back gate. These vehicles are directed to turn onto Bondorfer Strasse.

When drivers who turn onto Bondorfer Strasse get to the "T" in the road, they do not have to stop for the traffic coming from the left.

The cars already on Kürmarker have to stop for the driver making the right from Bondorfer Strasse.

The Citizen shared Rice's concerns with a representative of the 6th Area Support Group Provost Marshal's Office and received the following response:

While the writer's interpretation of German law as it applies to the Kürmarker-Bondorfer intersection is correct, drivers must remember that it is illegal to force the right of way.

Thus, even though a driver turn-

To put this in another perspective, if you are coming the back way from Panzer to the back gate on Patch (down Pascal Strasse to unter Waldplatz and then onto Kürmarker Strasse), you must yield to the traffic coming from the main gate.

Yes, Kürmarker Strasse is a straight

ing right onto Kürmarker from Bondorfer has the right-of-way, he or she would likely be found at least partially liable for any accident that resulted from pulling out in front of an oncoming vehicle that is already on Kürmarker Strasse.

In other words, we're all on the road together. Courtesy and cooperation continue to be the keys to safe driving.

street, and cars on Bondorfer Strasse must turn but, unless I missed something, neither has a priority road sign.

Remember: right before left. Let's not have any accidents out there.

Barry Rice  
Stuttgart

# THE CITIZEN

Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris  
6th Area Support Group Commander

Public Affairs Officer  
Jennifer Sanders  
[pao@6asg.army.mil](mailto:pao@6asg.army.mil)

Editor  
Hugh C. McBride  
[citizen@6asg.army.mil](mailto:citizen@6asg.army.mil)

### Reporters

Melanie Casey  
[caseym@6asg.army.mil](mailto:caseym@6asg.army.mil)

Mildred Green  
[greenm@6asg.army.mil](mailto:greenm@6asg.army.mil)

Terri Alejandro  
[alejandrot@6asg.army.mil](mailto:alejandrot@6asg.army.mil)

Stuttgart Essentials  
Christie Lawler  
[lawlerc@6asg.army.mil](mailto:lawlerc@6asg.army.mil)

### Contact Information

Office Location: Building 3307-W, Kelley Barracks  
U.S. Army Address: Unit 30401, APO AE 09107  
German Address: Gebäude 3307-W, Kelley Barracks, Plieningerstrasse, 70567 Stuttgart  
Telephone: 421-2046/civ. 0711-729-2046  
Fax: 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570

### Advertising Information

For advertising information call 349-8443/civ. 06155-601443. For classifieds call 349-8447/civ. 06155-601447.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Citizen are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 6th Area Support Group public affairs officer. Private organizations noted in this publication are not part of the Dept. of Defense.

The Citizen is printed by the Stars and Stripes under written agreement. The European Stars and Stripes is responsible for commercial advertising.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army or the European Stars and Stripes.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The Citizen is an offset press publication printed in 6,500 copies every two weeks.

[www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil)





Hugh C. McBride

**Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program volunteers patrol Patch Barracks in this file photo from early 2003. After a five-month hiatus, SNAP has returned to Stuttgart with a new director and a re-energized focus on neighborhood safety.**

# Stuttgart SNAPs back

## New coordinator set to re-energize area's Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program

By Melanie Casey

SNAP is back.

The Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program has returned to the 6th Area Support Group after a five-month hiatus.

Earnest Epps, who previously served as an operation assistant at the 6th ASG Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, became the new SNAP area coordinator Jan. 26.

Epps took on the new job because it was a "challenge, a way to deal with today's terrorist threat and get people involved with their neighbors," he said.

The new SNAP program falls under the installation support manager's office and 6th ASG command group.

SNAP is a volunteer-fueled effort that augments on-post force protection. It is modeled on the "Neighborhood Watch" programs popular in the States.

The program started in U.S. Army, Europe, in May 2002 (in response to the events of Sept. 11, 2001) under the direction of Gen. Montgomery Meigs, USAREUR's commander at the time, Epps said.

SNAP volunteers serve as the "eyes and ears" of the neighborhood. As they patrol an area, they keep a log not only of suspicious activities (which they report to the military police) but also burned out light bulbs, overflowing dumpsters and unsafe playground equipment.

"It's about safety and security," Epps said. SNAP volunteers do not intervene or take unnecessary risks.

Any U.S. identification cardholder over the age of 18 is eligible to become a SNAP volunteer. Once volunteers have completed a training session that covers issues ranging from



Epps

**SNAP is a volunteer-fueled effort that augments on-post force protection. It is modeled on the "Neighborhood Watch" programs popular in the States.**

from anti-terrorism to crime prevention, they can don a reflective vest, grab a flashlight, phone, pen and paper and begin making the rounds as part of a two-person observational team.

"Who would know their neighborhood better than someone who lives there?" Epps said.

SNAP volunteers, "will be a cornerstone of the community force protection program," said Ty Stearn, 6th ASG installation support manager. "Their teamwork and team building in reporting findings and observations is critical."

As an incentive, volunteers who log 150 hours or more can receive an AAFES coupon booklet and Directorate of Community Activities certificate; those who log 250 hours or more are eligible for a free USO tour or a weekend at the Armed Forces Recreation Center's Garmisch resort.

SNAP hours are flexible and can be accomplished on "a daily walk or while walking your dog," Epps added.

The goal of the program is to increase force protection and crime prevention and disseminate force protection information to the community.

"Hopefully," Epps said, "it will strengthen the community bond as a whole."

For more information, or to volunteer with the SNAP program, call Epps at 421-4615/civ. 0711-729-4615 or e-mail [epps@6asg.army.mil](mailto:epps@6asg.army.mil).

## National Prayer Breakfast on Patch

Feb. 18, 7 to 8:30 a.m.

Swabian Special Events Center

Guest Speaker: IMA-E Chaplain (Col.) Ronald Strong

Tickets are free, but attendees are asked to make a \$5 donation to benefit "Operation Helping Hand" at Landstuhl Army Medical Center. For details call 430-5000/civ. 0711-680-5000.

## News & Notes

### APOs announce new hours

Customer service hours in Stuttgart-area Army Post Offices have changed. The new hours are as follows:

- Patch Barracks – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Kelley Barracks – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursdays, noon to 4 p.m.
- Panzer Kaserne – Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, noon to 4 p.m.
- Robinson Barracks – Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information call 421-4286/civ. 0711-729-4286.

### Next Townhall meeting on Kelley

Stuttgart's next Townhall meeting is Feb. 25, 7 p.m., in the Kelley Barracks Community Club. All community members are invited to attend.

### CYS offers parents a night out

Parents can get a break when Child and Youth Services offers to watch the children Feb. 13, 6:30 to 11 p.m.

This special night is open to all children who are registered with CYS. The cost is \$12.50 per child. For details and reservations call 430-7480/civ. 0711-680-7480.

### Players, coaches needed

It's time to register children to participate in this year's Youth Services baseball and softball programs. Registration runs until March 12 for ages 3 and up. The cost is \$30 per player and participants must be centrally registered. Parents can register their children from 1 to 5 p.m. at any Stuttgart-area Youth Services facility.

Also, the YS Sports Office is looking for volunteer coaches for the upcoming seasons. Coaches receive registration discounts for their children.

For more information call 431-2616/civ. 07031-15-616.

### SCSC scholarships available

The Stuttgart Community Spouses Club is offering scholarships for graduating seniors.

Applications are available in the PHS guidance office. Submission deadline is Feb. 27. For more information call Joni at 0711-489-4810 or e-mail [jbjen110@aol.com](mailto:jbjen110@aol.com).

### Silent auction coming to RB

The second annual Robinson Barracks Parent Teacher Student Association Silent Auction is Feb. 12, 7 p.m., in the RB Community Club. This event is for adults only.

### Vet clinic to vaccinate on RB

The Stuttgart Veterinary Treatment Facility is holding a vaccination clinic Feb. 21, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Robinson Barracks Entertainment Center (building 168).

For details call 431-2681/civ. 07031-15-681.

### Girl Scout to donate locks for love

Hannah Rosenwald of Junior Girl Scout Troop 012 is sponsoring a Feb. 28 event to donate hair to Locks of Love (an organization in the United States) and Cancer Help (in the United Kingdom).

To donate hair to the U.S.-based organization, individuals must be able to cut at least ten inches; for the UK organization, the minimum length is six inches.

For details e-mail [rosenwaldfamily@t-online.de](mailto:rosenwaldfamily@t-online.de).

### USAFE MSS changes name

The United States Air Forces in Europe Mission Support Squadron is now known as the European Mission Support Squadron.

The change better reflects the unique mission the MSS has to service units from many different commands and agencies throughout Europe.

The name change came as the MSS was realigned from the USAFE Directorate of Personnel to the new 435th Mission Support Group of the 435th Air Base Wing in Ramstein.

Both the name change and the realignment have primarily internal implications.

The European MSS will continue to provide the same high level of service it is known for providing.



# AFRC expands 'Operation R&R' to include troops on block leave

Armed Forces Recreation Center  
Release

With U.S. Army, Europe, service members and civilians soon redeploying from Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom assignments, Armed Forces Recreation Center Europe has expanded its "Operation R&R" program to include redeployed OIF/OEF service members on block leave status.

Previously, this opportunity was only open to OIF/OEF service members on 14-day R&R leave. Effective immediately, "Operation R&R: Block Leave" will offer the base R&R package plus one optional additional overnight stay.

The AFRC Europe "Operation R&R" program base package provides two overnights at the General Von Steuben or General Patton hotels, two dinners and two breakfasts for only \$90 for a single traveler or \$120 for double occupancy.

As part of the special block leave package, service members and civilians may obtain a third overnight stay. Singles are an additional \$45 and doubles are \$60. Youth (ages 13-17) are \$9 per day, and children under 12 stay and dine at the hotel at no charge.

While staying at the resort, service members, civilians and their families may take advantage of the many tours and recreational activities offered by AFRC Europe for only \$15 per day.

"We want to help service members have a unique experience and plenty of rest in order to be ready to continue their important missions," said Richard LeBrun, general manager, AFRC Resorts, Europe.

"Whether service members want to get out and enjoy their leave in Europe with our recreation and tours programs, or just simply relax in our comfortable facilities, AFRC is the perfect place to visit," LeBrun said.

For more information visit [www.afrc europe.com](http://www.afrc europe.com) or call 440-2575/civ. 08821-72981.



Hugh C. McBride

**Service members returning from deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom can take advantage of AFRC facilities and activities.**

*The base package provides two overnights, two dinners and two breakfasts for \$90 for singles or \$120 for double occupancies.*



Corey Henderson

**Members of the U.S. Ski team visit with young guests at the U.S. Army, Europe, R&R Center Jan. 28.**

## Ski stars visit service members

Members of the U.S. Men's Ski Team visited with service members at the U.S. Army, Europe, R&R Center in Garmisch Jan. 28 to show their support for the military.

Skiers Daron Rahlves, Bryon Friedman and Jake Fiala met with service members and signed autographs on posters, trading cards and ski helmets.

"We were really honored to meet the service members," Fiala said. — AFRC Release

## NEWS & NOTES

### Garmisch bulletin distribution changes

Within the next six weeks, the Garmisch Community Bulletin will no longer be distributed in a paper format but will be distributed electronically.

All major supported activities — such as the Marshall Center, NATO school, Armed Forces Recreation Center Europe and Area Support Team Garmisch will have one point of contact to which the bulletin will be sent for further distribution as required.

All others should provide Helen Nas-Altenhofer with a home e-mail address. To have an address added to the distribution list, e-mail Helen at [helen.nas-altenhofer@garmisch.army.mil](mailto:helen.nas-altenhofer@garmisch.army.mil).

All future input for the bulletin must be submitted electronically. The deadline for submission is five days prior to the publication date.

### Legal assistance available in Garmisch

Representatives from the Stuttgart Law Center will be in Garmisch Feb. 23 and 24 for walk-in powers of attorney and notary services, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 to 3 p.m. in building 202, room 109 on Artillery Kaserne.

Attorney consultations are available by appointment only. For more information or to schedule an appointment call 421-4152/civ. 0711-729-4152.

### Auction benefits local groups

The next Community Service Auction is slated for Feb. 28. This event helps raise money for the community and fund programs such as the Scholarship Fund, Boy and Girl Scouts and Child Development Center.

If you have a hidden talent and would like to provide a product or service, call Kathy Tone by Feb. 23 at 08821-732-769 or e-mail [christophertone@hotmail.com](mailto:christophertone@hotmail.com).

### Burke Lodge announces events

• **An Evening of Monty Python** — March 2, 7 p.m., Pete Burke Center.

• **Munich in the Third Reich (Dark Tour)** — Feb. 28 and 29. The cost is \$23.

• **Carnivale in Venice/Verona Tour**, Feb. 20 to 22. The cost is \$159 and includes two overnights, transportation to Vincenza and a visit to Venice and Verona during Carnivale.

• **Pool and Gorge Tour** — Feb. 28. The cost is \$18.

• **Speaker's Corner** — March 10, 7:30 p.m. in the Burke Lodge. The speaker is Nick Pratt, who will discuss terrorism.

• **Garmisch Reader's Group** — March 8, 7 p.m., in the Community Library. The book this month is *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown.

For details call 440-2461/civ. 08821-750-461.

### Italian restaurant opens on Artillery

Dolomiti, a new Italian ristorante and pizzeria located in the Garmisch Community Club (Artillery Kaserne, building 262), is now open for business.

### Garmisch teens travel to Venice

The Middle School Teen Center is traveling to Venice for Carnivale Feb. 21 and 22.

This trip is open to Child and Youth Services members in grades 6 to 12. The cost is \$25.

For details call 440-2600/civ. 08821-750-600.

### GCSC meets monthly for lunch

The Garmisch Community and Spouses' Club meets for lunch the first Friday of every month, noon to 1 p.m. You don't have to be a member to attend these meetings.

The next luncheon is March 5 at the Zugspitze Cafe. For more information call Jen Roberts at 08821-943-1680 or Sandra Slade at 08821-730-863.

### Service Credit Union open on Artillery

A new full-service branch of Service Credit Union is now open on Artillery Kaserne.

Hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Austria institutes new toll system

The Austrian government has recently introduced a new toll system for highways called "Go Box," which applies to all vehicles with a maximum loading capacity of over 3.5 tons, to include large campers.

All other vehicles will continue to use the Vignette system. For details call 442-2500/civ. 08821-759-500.



# Sprechen Sie Deutsch?

## Stuttgart service keeps community members from becoming lost in translation

By Mildred Green

Living in Germany can be adventurous for many Americans, but it can also present a few challenges for those who do not *Deutsch sprechen*.

Stuttgart's Army Community Service is helping residents who experience challenges with the language barrier by offering full-time German translation services.

Andrea Keating, a German native, has taken on the newly-created position of German translator at ACS Mondays to Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Keating – who first worked with ACS as a volunteer translator – continues to offer a variety of unofficial translation services such as translating phone and electric bills.

In addition, she answers questions about Germany and the Stuttgart area.

### Everyone gets help

As a former customer service worker, Keating strives for people



Keating

to leave happy.

"No one leaves here without getting help," she said.

However, in order for Keating to best assist customers, she stressed the importance of them bringing her as much information as possible.

Documents that need to be translated can be dropped off at ACS, and customers will be notified when they are ready.

Appointments are preferred

when an in-depth translation of a document is needed. Otherwise, those seeking translation services from Keating are seen on a walk-in basis.

### All questions welcome

Keating lived for 15 years in the United States, and remembers what it was like her first time in a foreign country.

She encourages community members to come by and see her if there is anything they do not understand.

A document may not seem to be important, but it could be, she said.

One of the things Keating said she likes best about her job is the variety of questions she receives.

Customer's questions have varied from reading a bill to finding a tanning salon, she recalled.

"There is never a dull moment in my job," Keating said. "It is a lot of fun."

For more information call 430-7176/ civ. 0711-680-7176 or visit ACS on Patch Barracks in building 2307.

### Services provided

- ◆ Translating bills or other unofficial, non-medical documents ( German to English or English to German).
- ◆ Calling German agencies on behalf of customers , including making phone calls for appointments.
- ◆ Looking up information in the German phone book, on the Internet, in newspapers and via other media.
- ◆ Speaking with a German landlord on the phone or in writing (not for official purposes).
- ◆ Completing special projects such as translating a dinner menu or assembling hotel listings.
- ◆ Providing answers to veterinary, transportation and other common questions .

### Services not provided

- ◆ Telephone calls or inquiries in writing regarding medical or legal records.
- ◆ Translation of medical, legal or housing documents.
- ◆ Tax and VAT issues.

# Genealogy seminar focuses on finding family roots in Europe

Story & photo  
by Melanie Casey

**D**igging up one's family roots can be more than just a hobby – for some, it's a passion.

Simply put, genealogy – from the Greek *genea*, meaning family, and *logia*, meaning study – is the study of one's family history. But often, genealogists are much more than just curious family members: They're historians, detectives and judges as well.

Al Reed, an American of German descent currently living in Stuttgart and working at Headquarters, U.S. European Command, spoke at the Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club's luncheon Jan. 10 in the Swabian Special Events Center about the intricacies and difficulties of researching one's family history while living in Germany.

Many Americans have an ancestry that eventually leads back to Europe, so living in Germany may be a boon to those who want to dig into their pasts while here and discover long-lost relatives.

## *"If I can do it, you can do it"*

Although poring through centuries-old German records may be difficult, Reed said, "it's not impossible. If I can do it, you can do it. It's just a matter of getting used to it."

He said the best way to find one's ancestors includes the following:

- Start at the present and work your way back: Write down everything you know about your ancestors.
- Find older members of your family and interview them about what they know.
- Take out old pictures and identify everyone you can (write their names on the back, so someone doing future research will have this information).



**Al Reed of the Genealogical Association of English Speaking Researchers in Europe speaks to members of the Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club Jan. 10 on Patch Barracks.**

- Write everything down: What you were looking for, where you looked and what you found. Otherwise, you'll keep coming back to the same places.

- Use genealogy software, such as Family Tree Maker, Master Genealogist and Clues, to help keep you organized.

- Visit popular genealogy Web sites (such as [www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com), [www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com), [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) and [www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com)) to access documents and databases. Keep in mind that some of these Web sites are subscription services and have a fee.

Reed, who's been doing research for more than 25 years, has discovered German ancestors as far back as 1521. He's also discovered that he is related to the Crosby (as in Bing) and Fonda (as in Henry) families.

## *Research group can help*

Another avenue for genealogists is to join the Genealogical Association of English

## Making the jump

Once you have "made the jump" (discovered from where and when your ancestor immigrated), you can begin research in the country from which he or she emigrated. Reed gave the following tips about researching German ancestors:

- ◆ German Church records are available beginning about 1550. They could contain a wealth of information such as birth, baptism, marriage and death dates.

- ◆ Beginning in 1867, the German government mandated that civil records be kept.

- ◆ Many churches have professional (i.e. paid) genealogists available to help.

- ◆ Visit [www.genealogy.net](http://www.genealogy.net). This is a German site that can be accessed in English and offers translation services and searchable databases.

Speaking Researchers in Europe, to which Reed belongs.

This group of amateur genealogists meets the fourth Thursday of every month in Heidelberg. "It's a shared thing. There's different people with different backgrounds," Reed said. "The more members you have, the more experiences you have to share."

The membership fee (\$10 per year for those with an APO address; \$15 for all others) includes a newsletter with genealogy tips and advice, access to the GAESRE research library on Sullivan Barracks, conferences and more. Club members do not have to live in Germany.

The next meeting is Feb. 26 and will include a discussion on census records.

For more information visit [www.Rootsweb.com/~eurgasr/](http://www.Rootsweb.com/~eurgasr/) or e-mail Reed at [thefinder4@yahoo.com](mailto:thefinder4@yahoo.com).

## Spouses' Club sponsors seminar, searches for new members

**T**he SCSC is looking for a few good members.

The Stuttgart Community Spouses' Club (formerly known as the Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club) is now open to all Department of Defense community members, including spouses, active-duty service members and contractors.

The group sponsors a number of philanthropic and social events, such as the Jan. 10 luncheon featuring amateur genealogist Al Reed.

Since the switch from the OCSC (for which membership was limited) the SCSC has seen its membership climb.

Last year, the OCSC averaged 60 members per function; this year, the average is 90, and with 200 members and counting, the organization continues to grow. "There's a lot of excitement," said SCSC President Lori Roop, "You can feel it. The board is working hard and having fun."

Annual dues (\$40 per person) and Ways and Means Committee fundraisers pay for the operation of the club itself.

All other funds – gleaned from donations and fundraising events such as the annual Spring Bazaar (March 19 to 21 this year) – are returned to the community.

In addition to awarding scholarships to graduating seniors, the SCSC also allows recognized private organizations to apply for funds twice per year.

Roop said the SCSC's mission is twofold: Socially, the club brings members together for events and fundraisers; philanthropically, the club helps support the Stuttgart community.

For more information or to join the SCSC, call Joan Jenkins at 07031-724-075 or e-mail [jumpy726@yahoo.com](mailto:jumpy726@yahoo.com).

## Citizen wins 7 'Ware' awards Editor, reporter, paper recognized as among Army's best in Europe

6th Area Support Group  
Public Affairs Office Release

**T**he 6th Area Support Group's command information newspaper was honored seven times in the 2003 Installation Management Agency Europe Region's Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Journalism Award competition.

The Citizen earned a first-place award in the Special Achievement in Print Media category for its Feb. 25, 2003, force protection special edition.

The paper also placed third in the Tabloid-Format Newspaper category.

Citizen Editor Hugh C. McBride was named the IMA-E Moss-Holland Civilian Journalist of the Year. McBride also placed first in the Sports



Casey



McBride

Article category, second in News Article and third in Commentary.

Reporter Melanie Casey was also honored, earning second place in the Contribution by a Contractor/Stringer (Writer) category.





Led by Navy Lt. Irvin Gray and Jennifer Manton (both standing), the members of the Relocation and Family Support working group discuss community issues during the Jan. 29 AFAP conference.

Michael Beaton

## AFAP 2004

# Community conference puts quality of life on center stage

By Hugh C. McBride

Neither white skies nor red roads could deter a contingent of committed community members from gathering on Patch Barracks Jan. 29 to help make the 6th Area Support Group a better place in which to live and work.

Though the day was the latest in a string of snowy ones in Stuttgart – a morning blizzard even prompted the 6th ASG Installation Operations Center to temporarily declare local roads “red,” the highest level of alert – the area’s annual Army Family Action Plan conference went ahead as scheduled in Patch’s Swabian Special Events Center.

“We had great response and attendance,” said Caroline Orama, Stuttgart’s AFAP coordinator. “This was the biggest AFAP I’ve been associated with, and we got a lot of great feedback.”

A worldwide grassroots effort designed to address and remedy quality-of-life concerns in military communities, the AFAP process has brought more than 542 issues to the attention of the Army’s senior leadership since the program’s inception in 1983.

At the Stuttgart conferences, Orama said, issues that fall within the scope of the 6th ASG are assigned to the appropriate directorate for evaluation and follow-up, while recommendations that exceed local authority may be forwarded to AFAP conferences on the regional or Army wide.

To start this process, attendees at Stuttgart’s 2004 AFAP conference were divided into four working groups: Consumer Services, Medical and Dental Services, Relocation Services, and Youth and Education Services.

The groups listed and prioritized quality-of-life concerns within their areas of attention, then crafted concrete, measurable solutions for their top three issues.

AFAP delegate Richard Brown said the opportunity to have his voice heard – and to speak for others who he feels may not always be heard – made the conference a valuable experience for him.

“Senior leadership normally has its input, but it’s the junior service member that is affected,” Brown said. “Any time I can speak for the junior service members and get their opinions across, I’ll be there.”

At the end of the conference, representatives from each working group presented their group’s top issues and suggested remedies to a panel that included 6th ASG Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris, 6th ASG Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Chavez and 6th ASG Chief of Staff Joseph Moscone.

Moscone said he views AFAP as “a learning ex-

### Recommendations from AFAP 2004

#### Consumer Services

- Improve quality of customer service offered by TKS.
- Ensure all military communities offer consistent euro/dollar exchange rate.
- Alter Patch Commissary operating hours to better meet needs of community members.

#### Medical & Dental Services

- Expand availability of services at Stuttgart’s medical and dental clinics.
- Establish and promote consistent method of making appointments at both clinics.
- Develop improved means of responding to on-post medical emergencies.

#### Relocation & Family Support Services

- Establish temporary government lodging for Stuttgart-area families with pets.
- Improve entitlements and support services for Reservists who are deployed for more than 179 days.
- Increase and standardize weight restrictions for household goods of incoming single service members.

#### Youth & Education Services

- Offer increased late-night social opportunities for teens on post.
- Improve lunch options for students.
- Promote cultural enrichment of students through a program of off-post field trips.

For more about AFAP visit [www.stuttgart.army.mil](http://www.stuttgart.army.mil).

Select “Army Community Service” from the “Services” drop-down menu, then click “AFAP” from the list of choices on the left side of the screen.

perience” both for the command group and the community participants. He added that he believes the strength of the program lies in the range of opinions and perspectives it brings together.

“The diversity of the AFAP group represents the entire community – and that’s what makes this program work,” he said.

For Bonéy-Harris, the direct feedback is the key to AFAP’s success. “What better way to find out how our services are meeting the community’s needs than to talk to the people in the community?” she said.

## Stuttgart students earn honors for oratorical excellence

By Hugh C. McBride

Two Patch High School students have continued the area’s tradition of oratorical excellence.

Joe Morrow, a 16-year-old junior at Patch High School, received a \$1,000 scholarship and a trip to Washington, D.C., as the winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Europe Voice of Democracy competition.

Morrow is the fourth PHS student to win the Europewide competition in the past 10 years.

Morrow’s winning essay on “My Commitment to America’s Future” earned him the opportunity to compete for the national championship and a \$25,000 scholarship.

Also honored was Patch eighth grader Celestine Calhoun, who placed third at the district level in the Patriot’s Pen contest, a writing and speaking competition for seventh- and eighth-grade students.



Morrow



Calhoun





Piranha C.J. Beatty competes in the 50-meter butterfly event Jan. 18 during the Stuttgart team's final home meet of the European Forces Swim League 2003-2004 season. In the weeks following this meet, the Piranhas traveled to Berlin for the Rhineland Divisional Championship. They head to Munich soon to cap the season. photos by Hugh C. McBride

# Stuttgart swimmers end season with a splash

*Piranhas place third in EFSL's Rhineland Division; 20 to compete in championship meet in Munich*

By Melanie Casey

The Stuttgart Piranhas Swim Team is wrapping up another long and successful season. The Piranhas, whose season began in September, traveled to Berlin Jan. 24 to compete in the Rhineland Divisional Championships against teams from Berlin, Geilenkirchen and Wiesbaden. Although the Piranhas placed third, the swimmers had a chance to hone their skills in Berlin's 50-meter pool and prepare for competition at the European Forces Swim League championship meet set to take place in Munich. In order to qualify for "Champs," swimmers must meet a pre-set qualifying time. Hours in the pool (including 6 a.m. practices three times a week) along with instruction from Head Coach Kathleen Raymond and assistant coaches Jeanne Conner, Sarah Kerwin, Greg Soukup and Cory Doubek garnered 20 Piranhas the right to swim at this year's

Who's waiting 'til next year? Piranhas looking for new coaches now

- Though the 2003-2004 swim season is just ending, the Stuttgart Piranhas Swim Team is already looking for assistant coaches for next year's season (August 2004 through February 2005).
- Experience with swim instruction (including stroke development and refinement), working with children and personal competitive swimming experience is preferred. Pay is based on qualifications and experience.
- Applicants should be dependable, dedicated and ready to commit.

For details call Melanie at 0711-120-7638 or e-mail SweetJoeB@aol.com.

Champs event. The following swimmers will be competing at Champs this year: Samantha Beatty, Meredith Beatty, C.J. Beatty, Theresa Frame, Alessandra Noelting, Christopher Noelting, Tabitha Silver, Ellie Cayford, Caitlyn Conner, Brian Conner, Zach Mehringer, Terrelle Thomas, Savion Porterfield, Silas Porterfield, John

Kellner, Kyle Wolfe, Keenan Wolfe, Brad Lenkeit, Howard Barker and Nikolaus Smith. The European Forces Swim League is made up of 18 teams. It was established in 1976 as a way to provide an organized swimming program for the children of U.S. service members and civilians living in Europe.



[Above] Piranhas Assistant Coach Sarah Kerwin imparts a few pearls of swimming wisdom to 10-year-old Ellie Cayford during the Jan. 18 home meet against teams from Hohenfels, Wiesbaden and Würzburg. [Left] Widespread use of motivational artwork such as this gives a new meaning to the term "backtalk." [Right] Stephanie Casey completes the breaststroke leg of a medley relay Jan. 18 in Vaihingen.







Mildred Green

Electronic tax advisor Dana Schneider, right, helps Terry Mitchell with his income tax return Feb. 5 at the Stuttgart Tax Assistance Center on Kelley Barracks.

## Tax Assistance Center opens on Kelley Barracks

By Hugh C. McBride

With the snip of a ceremonial red tape, the Stuttgart Tax Assistance Center officially opened for business Feb. 1 on Kelley Barracks.

6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris said the center provides "a great service for our service members and family members."

Capt. Christine Connolly, the Stuttgart Law Center's chief of client services, said the center offers many advantages to community members.

"There have been quite a few changes to the tax laws for the 2003 tax season," Connolly said. "We have a very experienced staff returning to assist the community in creating their tax returns and answering their tax questions."

The center has a supply of state and federal tax forms, but Connolly said community members should bring the following items with them:

- U.S. military identification card
- Social Security card (for self and dependents)
- Bank routing information (for direct deposit)
- Tax forms W-2 and 1099
- Notice 1319 (advance on child tax credit)
- Employee identification number of daycare provider (if claiming daycare expenses)
- A copy of last year's return

Connolly said spouses who intend to file joint returns must both be present to sign the return. If this is not possible, the spouse who will be present must have power of attorney for the absent spouse.

### MyPay users to receive W-2 forms online only

By Sgt. 1st Class Harvey Cole  
U.S. Army, Europe, Public Affairs Office

The tradition of waiting at the mailbox for your W-2 is over.

"Military members with a MyPay personal identification number will only receive an electronic W-2 unless they elect to still receive a hard copy," said Lt. Col. Kathryn Hall, 266th Finance Command deputy commander.

According to Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the electronic method is now the primary means of delivery for all DFAS civilians and military users with a MyPay personal identification number.

According to DFAS officials, retired military service members and annuitants will continue to receive their tax statements or 1099 statements by mail.

*The Stuttgart Tax Assistance Center is located on Kelley Barracks in building 3312. The center is open Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. All services are free of charge. For more information call 421-4588/civ. 0711-729-4588.*

## Pay raise takes effect for military retirees

Air Force Print News

An estimated 150,000 military retirees should have seen an increase in their pay effective Feb. 2.

The National Defense Authorization Act, enacted in November, significantly modified a long-standing law preventing retirees from receiving full retired pay if they also received disability pay from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The new law allows concurrent receipt of military retired pay and VA disability pay for retirees with more than 20 years of service and a disability rating of 50 percent or more.

This restored pay will be phased in over a 10-year period that began Jan. 1.

Retirees are not required to take any action to receive the additional pay. Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials have already identified eligible retirees and begun making adjustments to their military retired pay.

The first payments are due Feb. 2 for the law change that was effective Jan. 1. The additional funds also will be paid Feb. 2 based on entitlement for Jan. 1 to 31. The restored pay is paid on the same schedule as current military retired pay.

Recurring payments will be made on the first business day of each month based on entitlement for the month before.

For the majority of military retirees, the additional money is taxable income and subject to federal tax withholding.

One category of military retirees who are eligible for additional funds but will not be paid Feb. 2, are those who receive retired pay based on a disability percentage instead of years of service.

Further guidance is needed from the Department of Defense to determine how the law will be applied in these cases.

Once guidance is received, payments will be made retroactive to

### Civilian raise retroactive to Jan. 11

Air Force Print News

The additional 2.1-percent pay raise for civilian employees that was authorized by the president Jan. 23 will be retroactive to Jan. 11.

However, before it can take effect, an executive order must be issued addressing how the increase will be split between base and locality pay, said Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials.

After the executive order is issued, the Office of Personnel Management will publish new salary tables based on that guidance.

These tables must then be integrated into the personnel system before any retroactive pay adjustment processing can begin, officials said.

Once the adjustments are processed by the personnel system, calculation of employee pay increases by payroll systems can begin.

As in 2003, not all employees will receive the retroactive part of the pay increase at the same time.

Because of transaction volume, payroll processing of this change must take place over the course of multiple paydays, DFAS officials said.

Jan. 1. An estimated 2,800 military retirees fall into this category.

*For more details regarding who is eligible for the restored pay and how payments will be made, visit [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil) and read the topics under "Retired and Annuitant Pay," or visit the MyPay Web site at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.*

## Heed warning signs to dodge financial danger

*Tax time often brings with it a renewed attention on one's financial well-being. To stay on the plus side, don't ignore warning signs such as the following:*

- **You use your credit cards regularly and rarely pay more than the required minimum payment.**

Simple math makes this approach a one-way road to disaster. Eventually, your debt may become so high that you may not be able to make the minimum payment.

- **You're often or always late on monthly bills.**

Monthly bills should represent your basic needs, so you should be able to pay for them without delay.

- **You purchase necessary consumable items, like food and gas, with a credit card.**

A healthy attitude toward credit is one in which you only use it in emergencies or to pay for important items with the intention of paying them off within 120 days.

- **You have no idea what your total debt is.**

If you can't estimate within \$500 or \$1,000 what your total debt is, your spending is way out of control. That's not a good approach to using credit.

- **You have recently taken out a cash advance on a credit card to pay a monthly bill.**

Typically, credit cards charge a higher interest rate and allow no grace period on cash advances. It simply doesn't make financial sense to pay bills like this on a regular basis.

- **You have paid overdraft fees on bounced checks or you have had a checking account closed by a bank because of too many rubber checks.**

*Source: Institute of Consumer Financial Information ([www.icfe.info](http://www.icfe.info))*





Sgt. Jack Morse

**A Soldier provides security near Balad, Iraq. Over the next four months, 220,000 Soldiers will move into and out of Iraq and Afghanistan – an operational tempo that is part of the reason why the service will temporarily expand by 30,000 troops.**

## Army to grow by 30,000

*Schoomaker cites need for temporary growth, but opposes permanent increase*

By Jim Garamone  
Army News Service

The Army has been given the green light to temporarily increase its size by up to 30,000 troops, but Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker said he opposes a permanent end-strength increase.

The service is already about 11,000 Soldiers above its congressional limit of 482,400 active-duty troops, Schoomaker told the House Armed Services Committee Jan. 28, explaining that the Army has used emergency authority to meet its commitments in Iraq, Afghanistan, the Balkans and elsewhere.

Speaking at a congressional hearing on the rotation of troops to Iraq, Schoomaker said he has permission from Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld “to grow the Army by 30,000 people.”

But Schoomaker told representatives he opposes a permanent increase in troops, and instead believes transformation and restructuring will increase lethality and efficiency in the long run. He said an unfunded end-strength increase “puts readiness at risk, it puts training at risk, it puts modernization at risk, it puts transformation at risk – and that’s why I’m resisting it.”

Many in Congress believe the Army is stressed with worldwide operations. One proposal calls for adding two more combat divisions. Another calls for a 40,000-troop increase in the Army, while other, more general proposals just call for end-strength increases.

“We’re making very serious moves to modularize [and] standardize the Army, developing an Army that’s more lethal, more agile, more capable of meeting the current and future operating environment task,” he said.

If the Army is allowed to pursue the course now charted, Schoomaker said, the country will get “a better Army more capable of doing what it needs to do, within our current level of resourcing.”

Schoomaker detailed some restructuring elements for the representatives. He said there are currently 10

*‘This is the biggest internal restructuring we’ve done in 50 years, but it must be done to make us relevant and to allow us to meet the real threat to the United States.’*

Gen. Peter Schoomaker  
U.S. Army Chief of Staff

active duty divisions. The service will retain the 10 division headquarters as battle command headquarters but move some enabling resources – such as air defense, signal and intelligence – to the brigade level.

The Army would increase the number of brigades under those divisions.

“Tentatively we think we can go from three brigades under a division to four,” he said. That alone would take the service from 30 brigades under the division structure to 40.

The service has already decided to go forward with five Stryker brigades in the active structure. The service also has two airborne brigades and an armored cavalry regiment.

“That moves us from 33 active brigades under 10 division headquarters to a force of 48 active brigades – more lethal, more capable, more agile, more modular – that will allow us to be much more strategically agile than we are today,” he said.

“This is the biggest internal restructuring we’ve done in 50 years, but it must be done to make us relevant and to allow us to meet the real threat to the United States,” Schoomaker said.

## DoD to rebalance Reserve, Guard forces

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample  
American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department has several initiatives underway to rebalance Guard and Reserve forces, the department’s top reserve affairs official said.

Thomas F. Hall, assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, told attendees of the Reserve Officers Association’s mid-winter conference that Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is interested in transforming the Guard and Reserve “not tomorrow, but today,” and that the fiscal 2005 defense budget will have significant rebalancing initiatives.

Hall, a retired Navy rear admiral, said the department is studying ways to improve Guard and Reserve end strength, reduce multiple mobilizations of the same units and relieve stress on the force.

Hall said DoD is moving toward increasing the base number of Guard and Reserve troops and is moving some of its missions and functions to active-duty forces.

The department has looked at about 300,000 military manpower positions for possible outsourcing to contractors, he said.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, Hall said, about 352,000 Guardsmen and Reservists have been mobilized.

But, he added, “We’ve got 62 percent of the Guard and Reserve that we haven’t touched.”

Hall said a review of mobilizations by Guard and Reserve troops over the past six years revealed that only 4 percent of the force has been affected by “multi-mobilizations.”

But, he added, the department is aware that is a small consolation for those reserve component members who have been deploying.

*The department is studying ways to improve Guard and Reserve end strength, reduce mobilizations of the same units and relieve stress on the force.*

“In that 4 percent, if you are one of that group that has been mobilized, two, three and four times, it’s a problem,” Hall said. “So we have looked at the stress on the force. We have defined it, and the message here is that it’s a small group, but it’s an important group.”

Hall noted that those Guard and Reserve members called most for mobilization belong to units that specialize in mortuary, civil affairs, force protection and air traffic control.

In those groups, he said, there is a need to “rebalance so that we do not mobilize those people over and over again. And we’re committed to that, and that’s going to be part of the rebalancing.”

Hall said DoD also is looking into providing more predictability for Guard and Reserve members prior to deployment.

He said Guard and Reserve members “need to know up front” when they’re going to mobilize and for how long.

“We need to get to a predictability, a rotational base for both our active and reserve forces that provides that,” he said.

## Permanent change of station/pre-separation briefing

**Feb. 18, 1 p.m. – Patch Barracks, building 2318, room 4**

**Gather information from agencies including transportation, medical and dental clinics, customs, housing and vehicle registration.**

All service members and civilians departing within the next four to five months should attend. **Registration is required.** For more information call 430-4064/civ. 0711-680-4064.



# Sports Medicine Clinic opens inside Stuttgart Health Clinic

*Active-duty service members can be seen on walk-in basis*



U.S. Army Medical Department  
Activity, Heidelberg,  
Public Affairs Office Release

**A**ctive-duty service members with new injuries such as sprains or strains can now walk in to the Sports Medicine Clinic in the Stuttgart Health Clinic on Patch Barracks Mondays to Fridays, 7:30 to 9 a.m.

The service members do not need a doctor's referral.

"The Sports Medicine Clinic enables beneficiaries to have direct, immediate access to a physical therapist," said Capt. Don Goss, chief of physical therapy.

- The Stuttgart Health Clinic is open Mondays to Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Active-duty sick call is 7:30 to 9 a.m. daily on a walk-in basis.

- Scheduled appointments begin at 9 a.m. Immunization Clinic hours are 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:00 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.

- Patients should arrive 15 minutes prior to their appointment times.

**An airman works out while deployed to Kyrgyzstan. Injured service members can now walk in to the Sports Medicine Clinic in the Stuttgart Health Clinic Mondays to Fridays, 7:30 to 9 a.m.**

Master Sgt. Jerry A. King

For more information call the clinic at 430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610.

## Tricare Standard eliminates nonavailability statements

Tricare Release

**T**he Department of Defense military health system has eliminated the requirement for Tricare Standard beneficiaries to obtain nonavailability statements.

This change in policy allows Standard beneficiaries to receive inpatient care at civilian hospitals without obtaining prior approval from their military treatment facility, except for those needing non-emergency inpatient mental healthcare services.

"With this change in policy, beneficiaries now have the freedom to choose a military treatment facility or a civilian facility without any extra paperwork," said Dr. William Winkenwerder, Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs.

"Tricare beneficiaries [are urged] to still look to the military health system as their first choice for healthcare because I believe the services we offer are second to none," he added.

Before the change, Tricare Standard beneficiaries had to first get a nonavailability statement indicating that care was not available from the military facility.

### Maternity

Under the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act, the military facility may request a departmental waiver of the elimination policy requirement in certain specific, but limited, circumstances. However, such limited waiver requests do not apply to maternity services unless the affected beneficiary began her first prenatal visit before Dec. 28, 2003.

Maternity patients should check with their local military treatment facility to compare maternity services there with those available in civilian facilities.

The military health system recently implemented a family-centered care program that offers enhanced services and recognizes the unique needs of military families in today's climate of increasing deployments and high operations tempo.

Beneficiaries are encouraged to review the enhanced maternity services at [www.tricare.osd.mil/familycare/default.cfm](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/familycare/default.cfm) and with their military medical provider.

### Mental health

The need for a nonavailability statement for non-emergency inpatient mental healthcare applies only to beneficiaries who use Tricare standard or extra, who are not Medicare eligible and who have no other health insurance that is primary to Tricare.

DoD does not require preauthorization for Tricare beneficiary inpatient mental healthcare when Medicare is the primary payer.

### Assistance online, in person

Beneficiaries should check the Tricare Web site at [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil) if they are seeking an inpatient service and want to know if their nearby facility has applied for a nonavailability statement waiver.

They also may contact the beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator or health benefits advisor at their facility for more information.

Before seeking care at a civilian facility, beneficiaries are encouraged to check with their military facility to compare services and answer any questions.

Even if the military treatment facility could not provide needed services in the past, the facility's staffing levels or capabilities may have changed.

For more information call the Tricare Service Center at 430-4309/civ. 0711-680-4309.

## Health Helpline activated

*Line reserved for deployment-related medical questions*

Europe Regional Medical  
Command Release

Toll free and DSN numbers have been activated in Germany, Italy, Belgium, Spain, England, Hungary and the Netherlands to assist service members and their families in contacting the Deployment Health Helpline in the United States.

The DSN number works from all U.S. government phones in Europe that support worldwide DSN.

### Operating hours

The Deployment Health Clinical Center Helpline is located in Washington, D.C., and is open Mondays to Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, (1:30 to 10:30 p.m. Central European Time), excluding federal and training holidays.

### Eligibility

The helpline is for the following groups who have been deployed and have medical questions or concerns:

- ♦ Active-duty service members and their families
- ♦ Department of Defense contractors
- ♦ DoD civilians
- ♦ Military retirees

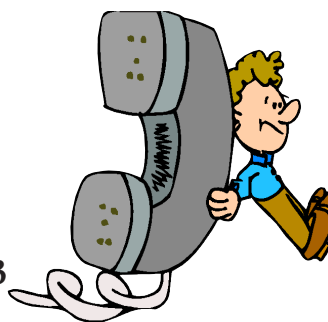
## Deployment Health Helpline

### Calling from Europe

- Toll free: 00800-8666-8666
- DSN: 312-662-3577

### Calling from the States

- Toll free: 866-559-1627
- Commercial: 202-782-6563



*Note: National Guard and Reservists not on active duty who have medical questions or concerns related to a deployment should contact the Veterans Administration helpline at 800-749-8387. This number is not toll free if called from outside the continental United States.*

Any deployment-related medical question or concern regarding physical or mental health care may be addressed through this venue.

If the question cannot be immediately answered, it will be forwarded to an appropriate health care expert, who will contact the caller as soon as possible.

### After hours questions

Callers may leave a message after duty hours or when the helpline is busy. Calls will be returned the same day or

during the following workday.

When leaving a message with the helpline, callers should identify themselves and their duty location and provide complete DSN and commercial numbers – including country codes – so calls may be successfully returned to Europe.

For more information visit [www.pdhealth.mil](http://www.pdhealth.mil) or call Cynthia Vaughan at 371-3317/civ. 06221-173-317.



# Golf course, pro shop getting facelifts

## Stuttgart facility to remain open during enhancement work

By Christie Lawler  
6th ASG MWR Marketing

The Stuttgart Golf Course, acclaimed as one of the Army's finest courses in Europe, is getting even better.

The 18-hole championship course is undergoing a facelift to bring customers a better course and a brighter pro shop.

The facility already offers plenty of amenities, including a pro shop, two putting greens, a driving range and a pitching green.

Also, the pro shop restaurant specializes in Italian food and offers a lunch and dinner menu. Golfers and diners alike can enjoy their meal on the terrace, which has an excellent view of the course.

Constructed in 1957, the course sits on 300 acres and is considered one of the most beautiful courses in Germany. Manager Marco Spellacy said the 7,000-yard-long course provides a challenge to its players with more than 1,000 trees and almost 50 bunkers.

"It's considered by many to have the best layout of any military course in Europe," Spellacy boasted.

"With generously wide fairways and four sets of tee boxes, it plays fairly, challenging the good player but not punishing the average golfer," he said.

And he should know. Spellacy brings knowledge and skill to his position as the facility's PGA professional, having spent two years playing on the PGA European Tour in the mid-80s.

The first part of the course to undergo improvement is the irrigation system. The good news for golfers, Spellacy said, is that the course will remain open during this phase of construction.

"Only one hole at a time will be closed, and only when working around the greens," he said. "The rest of the time we can turn them into par three[s]."

Spellacy said the interior renovation will almost double the size of the pro shop.

In addition to new carpeting, doors, walls, ceilings and windows, the shop will also feature a new lounge area on the restaurant patio with an overhead extension to keep



Hugh C. McBride

**While golfers hone their strokes on the nearby putting green, Stuttgart Golf Course Manager Marco Spellacy conducts a youth clinic on the driving range in July 2003. The Kornwestheim facility is undergoing an interior and exterior renovation to improve what has been termed the finest U.S. military course in Europe.**

customers dry on those rainy German days.

One major change will improve customers' non-golfing time at the club. "We are purchasing four flat-screen TVs and an AFN decoder to allow for special functions in conjunction with the major golf tournaments and NFL football."

In the midst of all these improvements, shoppers and golfers can still take advantage of a wealth of special sales and promotions.

Here's an idea of what to look for when visiting the course:

### February

- Golfers can play unlimited holes for the nine-hole fee. This offer is good all day long during the week and on weekends before noon. (Golfers must be ID cardholders to take advantage of this special deal.)
- Save 15 percent on all Callaway Metalwoods and 30 percent on assorted gloves.

### March

- The course's annual membership drive is March 19, 4 to 6:30 p.m., in the Swabian Special Events Center. Those who register during this special event receive a 10-percent dis-

### Improvement highlights

- ♦ Almost 100-percent increase in the size of the pro shop
- ♦ Addition of four flat-screen televisions and an AFN decoder
- ♦ Installation of new carpet, walls and ceiling in pro shop
- ♦ New doors and windows in pro shop
- ♦ New lounge area on restaurant patio
- ♦ Extension of overhead awning on restaurant patio
- ♦ Improved irrigation system on course

count on 2004 membership dues.

- The Callaway sale continues with major markdowns.

- Selected apparel will be reduced up to 30 percent.

- There will be free snacks and drinks, plus a drawing for top-of-the-line merchandise at 6 p.m.

### April

- Pick your own four-person team for the opening day scramble April 10. A 20- to 5-percent handicap system will be used to even out the teams.

- The scramble entry fee is \$20 for members, \$30 for non-member ID cardholders and \$50 for guests.

- The day begins with a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. and entry includes green fees, prizes and a buffet lunch. The entry fees must be paid in advance at the pro shop.

- Golfers may sign up individually and do not need an established handicap.

- Stop by the pro shop for the Golfers Day Sale April 10. Celebrate the anniversary of the first PGA championship by purchasing new equipment at a discount. All items will be marked down by at least 10 percent.

- The Moonlight Scramble – a nine-hole tournament featuring glow-in-the-dark balls – is April 30, starting at dusk. The \$25 entry fee includes green fees, supplies, prizes and snacks.

For information, directions or a tee time call the Stuttgart Golf Course at 07141-879-151.

## Panzer Youth Services swaps spaces with SAS



Sean Kutz, 11, shoots a game of pool at the recently-moved Panzer Youth Services. The YS and School Age Services traded places to give SAS more room for incoming members.

Story & photo by Melanie Casey

Panzer Youth Services and School Age Services have switched places.

The change was made to make room for incoming SAS students and to enhance YS programs, said Derek Morris, Panzer YS lead programmer.

The switch means the YS now has three separate rooms: one with a bank of computers for doing homework, one with a pool table and jukebox and one with a large-screen TV and kitchen.

The new YS also features modern furniture; more life skills and leadership opportunities; improved fitness and health options; and enhanced mentoring, intervention and education support services.

"The kids like it better over here," Morris said.

The Panzer YS is now in building 3166; SAS is in building 3163.

For more information call 431-2568/civ. 07031-15-568.



February is African-American History Month

How much do you know about African-American heritage?

1) After touring Europe (where some proclaimed her “the greatest living contralto”), this opera singer was refused permission to sing in Washington’s Constitution Hall because of her race. Instead, she performed before more than 75,000 spectators from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday 1939.

- A. Dorothy Dandridge
- C. Marian Anderson
- B. Luciana Pavarotti
- D. Ida B. Wells-Barnett

2) Born a slave, she became perhaps the most famous “conductor” on the Underground Railroad, a covert network that led escaped slaves to freedom.

- A. Sojourner Truth
- C. Harriet Tubman
- B. Coretta Scott
- D. Zora Neale-Hurston

3) While living as a slave in Missouri in 1846, he sued for his freedom on the grounds that his residence in a free territory invalidated his bondage. The Supreme Court rejected his case by a 7-2 vote, with Chief Justice Roger B. Taney writing that black men “had no rights which the white man was bound to respect.”

- A. Dred Scott
- C. Alvin Ailey
- B. Crispus Atties
- D. Frederick Douglass

4) On Feb. 25, 1897, he became the first black senator in the history of the United States.

- A. Hiram Revels
- C. Malcolm Little
- B. Thurgood Marshall
- D. W.E.B. Du Bois

5) Though African-Americans have participated in all wars in U.S. history, the military was not officially integrated until \_\_\_\_.

- A. 1848
- C. 1948
- B. 1918
- D. 1958

6) Identify the following world-renowned athletes.



- A. Florence Griffith-Joyner
- C. Serena Williams
- B. Althea Gibson
- D. Wilma Rudolph

7) This grandson of a slave worked for the U.S. State Department and the United Nations. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950.

- A. Ralph Ellison
- C. Ralph Lundsten
- B. Ralph Waldo Emerson
- D. Ralph Bunche

8) Identify the following history-making men.



- A. W.E.B. Du Bois
- C. Frederick Douglass
- B. Malcolm X
- D. Langston Hughes

9) The first all-black military aviation program was begun in 1941 in \_\_\_\_.

- A. Tuskegee, Alabama
- C. Clearwater, Florida
- B. Macon, Georgia
- D. San Antonio, Texas

10) Byron De La Beckwith was convicted in 1994 of murdering this civil rights activist – and Army veteran – in May 1963.

- A. Ralph Ellison
- C. James Chaney
- B. Medgar Evers
- D. Emmett Till

11) With a career record of 36-3-1, he was the first boxer to win titles in five weight classes and more than \$100 million.

- A. Sugar Ray Robinson
- C. Sugar Shane Mosely
- B. Sugar Ray Leonard
- D. Super Sugar Crisp

12) This poet read the poem “On the Pulse of the Morning” at the 1992 inauguration of President Bill Clinton.

- A. Langston Hughes
- C. Phyllis Wheatley
- B. Maya Angelou
- D. Gwendolyn Brooks

13) \_\_\_\_ was the first African-American astronaut to ride into space, travelling aboard the Space Shuttle Challenger.

- A. Mae Jamison
- C. Guion Bluford
- B. Robert H. Lawrence
- D. Bernard Harris

14) The 15th amendment to the U.S. constitution, which established that the right to vote could not be denied “on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude,” was ratified in \_\_\_\_.

- A. 1850
- C. 1915
- B. 1870
- D. 1940

15) In 1988, \_\_\_\_ became the first African-American athlete to win a medal in the Winter Olympics.

- A. Grant Fuhr
- C. Herschel Walker
- B. Serena Williams
- D. Debi Thomas

African-American History Month events in the Stuttgart area

Soul Food Luncheon

Feb. 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

◆ Stuttgart’s Black Stallion Dining Facility (Patch Barracks, building 2386) will host the luncheon.

- ◆ Lunch costs \$3.30 per person.
- ◆ For more information call 421-2892/civ. 0711-729-2892.

6th Area Support Group “Main Event” Celebration

Feb. 21, noon to 2 p.m.

◆ The 6th Area Support Group and the Stuttgart Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will present an afternoon of African dance, fashion, food sampling and more.

- ◆ This free event will be held in the Patch Barracks Community Club.
- ◆ All members of the Stuttgart military community are invited to attend.
- ◆ For more information call 421-2892/civ. 0711-729-2892.

Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum

Feb. 12 and Feb. 26

◆ The DAZ’s James F. Byrnes Institute (Charlottenplatz 17 in downtown Stuttgart) will host a lecture and discussion entitled *Witness to History or Historical Witness? Susie King Taylor’s “A Black Woman’s Civil War Memories”* Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.

The event will be moderated by Dr. Tracey J. Boisseau, a Fulbright professor from the English Department of the University of Beyruth.

◆ Ericka Bahner will lead a lecture and discussion entitled *Black Pearls: America’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities* Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Bahner is a graduate of Spelman College and the Utrecht Graduate School of Arts and Economics.

◆ For more information call 0711-228-180 or e-mail info@daz.org.

‘Contributing to the growth and strength of our nation.’

Answers

1-C; 2-C; 3-A; 4-A; 5-C; 6: A-VI; B-III; C-II D-I; 7-D; 8: A-I; B-III; C-IV D-II; 9-A; 10-B; 11-A; 12-B; 13-C; 14-B; 15-D

14-15 correct: You are a true historical scholar!

12-13 correct: Be proud of your knowledge, but aware of what you still have to learn.

10-11 correct: This is a great month to fill the gaps in your historical awareness.

Less than 10 correct: Read a book, watch a film; repeat, repeat, repeat ...

Son of slaves became father of annual observance

The founder of what is today African-American History Month was a multilingual teacher, author, historian and publisher who didn’t enroll in school until he was 20 years old.

After teaching himself reading, writing and basic math, Carter G. Woodson made up for his late entry into the world of formal education by earning a high school diploma, bachelor’s degree and master’s degree within 13 years of first attending school.

In 1912, this son of former slaves became the second African-American individual to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard University.

Woodson’s academic, personal and professional lives were permeated with a desire to protect and promote African-American culture.

“When you control a man’s thinking you do not have to worry about his actions. He will find his “proper place” and will stay in it.”

Dr. Carter G. Woodson

Founder of African-American History Month

”

In 1915 Woodson became a founding member of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, and in 1916 he began publication of the quarterly *Journal of Negro History*.

Woodson established Negro History Week – the precursor of African-American History Month – in 1926. He selected February because both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born during that month.

For more information about Woodson visit [www.virginia.edu/woodson](http://www.virginia.edu/woodson).





# The mysteries of Valentine's Day

## Why February 14?

Some people believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial – which probably occurred around 270 A.D. – while others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'christianize' celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia festival.

Lupercalia, which began Feb. 15, was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus. To begin the festival, members of the Luperci, an order of Roman priests, would gather at the sacred cave where the infants Romulus and Remus were believed to have been cared for by a she-wolf or lupa.

Later in the day, according to legend, all the young women in the city would place their names in a big urn. The city's bachelors would then choose a name out of the urn and become paired for the year with his chosen woman. These matches often ended in marriage.

Pope Gelasius declared Feb.14 St. Valentine's Day around 498 A.D. However, the Roman 'lottery' system for romantic pairing was deemed un-Christian, and was outlawed. – *source: [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)*

### Valentine's Day trivia tidbits

- ♥ Cupid is also known as Eros.
- ♥ Valentine's Day is the second-largest card holiday of the year (Christmas is first).

## To learn more...

[www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)  
[www.factmonster.com](http://www.factmonster.com)  
[www.Theholidayspot.com/valentine](http://www.Theholidayspot.com/valentine)  
[www.holidays.net/amore](http://www.holidays.net/amore)

## Who was St. Valentine?

According to [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com), the Catholic Church today recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine.

One legend tells of a Valentine who was a priest in third-century Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made the best soldiers, he outlawed marriage for young men.

Realizing the injustice of this ruling, Valentine defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

According to a different legend, another Valentine actually sent the first "Valentine's" greeting. While imprisoned, he fell in love with a young girl who visited him during his confinement.

Before his death, he wrote her a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine," an expression still used today.

*source: [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)*

## The skinny on those tiny candy hearts

- ♥ Their technical name is "Conversation hearts."
- ♥ They were invented in the 1860s.
- ♥ The first factory-made hearts appeared in 1902.
- ♥ They come in two sizes: 1/2 inch and 3/4 inch.
- ♥ They come in seven colors and flavors.
- ♥ 100,000 pounds must be produced every day to meet the Valentine's demand.
- ♥ Eight billion hearts are sold in six weeks.
- ♥ They stay fresh for five years.

*source: [factmonster.com/spot/candyhearts](http://factmonster.com/spot/candyhearts)*